



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 57

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5072

House of Representatives, March 21, 2016

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS, R. of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 10a-22a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (1) "Private occupational school" means a person, board, association,
5 partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity
6 offering instruction in any form or manner in any trade, industrial,
7 commercial, service, professional or other occupation for any
8 remuneration, consideration, reward or promise of whatever nature,
9 including, but not limited to, a hospital-based occupational school,
10 barber school or hairdressing school authorized pursuant to section
11 10a-22b, except "private occupational school" shall not include (A)
12 instruction offered under public supervision and control; (B)
13 instruction conducted by a firm or organization solely for the training

14 of its own employees or members; or (C) instruction offered by a
15 school authorized by the General Assembly to confer degrees;

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) As used in this section and
17 sections 3 to 5, inclusive, and section 7 of this act:

18 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
19 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes; and

20 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
21 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

22 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) The Board of Regents for Higher
23 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall
24 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates
25 earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by an institution
26 of higher education or private occupational school in the state for the
27 purpose of creating consistency among the various sub-baccalaureate
28 certificate programs. Not later than July 1, 2017, the president of the
29 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit, in accordance
30 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report
31 containing such written definition to the joint standing committee of
32 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
33 education.

34 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2017,
35 and annually thereafter, each institution of higher education and
36 private occupational school in the state shall submit data for the prior
37 academic year to the Office of Higher Education, in a uniform format
38 prescribed by said office, regarding its for-credit and noncredit sub-
39 baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of sub-baccalaureate
40 certificates it offers. Such data shall include, but need not be limited to,
41 the following for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program:

42 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;

43 (2) Total enrollment in such program;

- 44 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;
- 45 (4) Number and type of certificates awarded by such program;
- 46 (5) Tuition and fees charged for completion of such program in the
47 time period prescribed by such program;
- 48 (6) Costs relating to the purchase of books and supplies, unless such
49 costs are included as part of the tuition and fees of such institution or
50 school for such program;
- 51 (7) Median loan debt incurred by students who complete such
52 program, to the extent such information has been reported to the
53 financial aid office of the institution of higher education or private
54 occupational school offering such program, separately by title IV loans
55 and other education debt, including private and institutional loans;
- 56 (8) Basic demographic information, to the extent available, of the
57 students enrolled in such program, including, but not limited to,
58 gender, age, race and ethnicity;
- 59 (9) Graduation rates, to the extent available, for student cohorts
60 completing such program;
- 61 (10) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of
62 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;
- 63 (11) Whether such program leads to a credential recognized by the
64 industry for which such program prepares a student;
- 65 (12) Whether a student may combine the certificate awarded upon
66 successful completion of such program with any other certificate
67 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate
68 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of
69 qualification for a particular trade or occupation;
- 70 (13) Average length of time to complete such program;
- 71 (14) Job placement rates, to the extent available, for students who

72 have completed such program;

73 (15) Average starting salary for entry-level positions requiring the
74 certificate based on available Labor Department statistics;

75 (16) Average salary for jobs requiring the certificate based on
76 available Labor Department statistics;

77 (17) Cohort pass rate, to the extent available, for national
78 certification programs; and

79 (18) Cohort state licensure pass rate, to the extent available, for
80 positions requiring the certificate and licensure.

81 (b) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the
82 Office of Higher Education shall compile the data submitted pursuant
83 to subsection (a) of this section for purposes of comparing the sub-
84 baccalaureate certificate programs offered by the institutions of higher
85 education and private occupational schools and determining (1) which
86 programs are similar to other programs, (2) student interest in each
87 program and similar programs, and (3) the necessity of offering each
88 program. Not later than July 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, said
89 office shall make such data available on its Internet web site for the
90 purpose of enabling a student or prospective student to make an
91 informed decision about whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate
92 certificate program and, if so, which program is the best fit for such
93 student.

94 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than July 1, 2017, each
95 institution of higher education and private occupational school shall
96 develop and make available a one-page fact sheet for each sub-
97 baccalaureate certificate program offered by such institution or school.
98 Such fact sheet shall include basic information regarding the program
99 to potential applicants, such as tuition, fees, costs of books and
100 supplies, room and board, graduation and, to the extent available, job
101 placement rates and average student debt.

102 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) The Board of Regents for

103 Higher Education, under the direction of its chief academic officer,
104 shall establish a working group comprised of deans of continuing
105 education programs, or their designees, at the regional community-
106 technical colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate
107 certificate programs offered by each regional community-technical
108 college for purposes of designing a uniform naming convention for
109 such programs. Not later than June 1, 2017, the working group shall
110 design the uniform naming convention to enable students to
111 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet
112 varied requirements within the same field of study. Any programs that
113 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,
114 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

115 (b) Not later than July 1, 2017, and periodically thereafter as
116 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working
117 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named noncredit sub-
118 baccalaureate certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to
119 determine if any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such
120 program are reasonable.

121 (c) Not later than August 1, 2017, the president of the Board of
122 Regents for Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the
123 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
124 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
125 relating to higher education regarding the uniform naming convention
126 designed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the
127 determination made from the tuition review required under subsection
128 (b) of this section.

129 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than January 1, 2018,
130 the Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually
131 review not less than a sample of student data from all for-credit and
132 noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by the
133 institutions of higher education and the private occupational schools.
134 Said office shall not disclose any personally identifiable information of
135 any student obtained as a result of performing the annual review.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10a-22a(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state as the information and data which is to be reported upon by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Office of Higher Education is already available in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or through other internal sources.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5072*****AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to define and monitor sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools. The bill specifies that private occupational schools include hospital-based occupational schools, barber schools, and hairdressing schools.

Specifically, the bill requires BOR, in collaboration with OHE, to (1) create written definitions for all sub-baccalaureate certificates earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by higher education institutions and private occupational schools and (2) report the completed definitions to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by July 1, 2017. The definitions aim to create consistency among the various certificate programs, according to the bill.

Annually, beginning July 1, 2017, the bill also requires each in-state institution or school to submit data to OHE from the previous academic year about its for-credit and noncredit sub-baccalaureate programs and the types of certificates these programs offer. OHE must develop a uniform format for data submissions, and the bill prescribes a detailed list of data that institutions and schools must submit.

Annually, beginning January 1, 2018, OHE must use the collected data to compare various types of sub-baccalaureate programs to determine similarities to other programs, student interest in each

program and similar programs, and the necessity of each program. By July 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, OHE must post the compiled data on its website so that students and prospective students can make informed decisions about enrollment in and choice of sub-baccalaureate certificate programs.

The bill also requires (1) institutions and schools to develop one-page fact sheets for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program they offer, (2) BOR to establish a working group to review all noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by each regional community-technical college (CTC), and (3) OHE to create an annual review program for data samples submitted by institutions and schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM DATA COLLECTION

The bill requires institutions' and schools' data submissions to OHE about sub-baccalaureate certificate programs to include the following information:

1. the program's name and subject matter area;
2. total program enrollment;
3. any entry-level requirements for program enrollment;
4. the number and type of certificates the program awarded;
5. tuition and fees charged for completing the program within the prescribed timeframe;
6. costs of purchasing books and supplies, unless the program tuition or fees include such costs;
7. median loan debt students incur when completing the program, to the extent it has been reported to the institution's financial aid office or school, reported separately by title IV loans and

- other education debt, including private and institutional loans;
8. basic demographic information, to the extent available, on students enrolled in the program, including their gender, age, race, and ethnicity;
 9. graduation rates, to the extent available, for student cohorts completing the program;
 10. whether there is a clear pathway from successful program completion to enrollment in a related associate degree program;
 11. whether the program leads to a credential recognized by the industry for which the program prepares a student;
 12. whether a student may combine the certificate awarded upon successful program completion with any other certificate awarded upon successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate program in order to achieve a heightened qualification level for a particular trade or occupation;
 13. the average length of time for program completion;
 14. job placement rates, to the extent available, for students who have completed the program;
 15. average starting salary for entry-level positions requiring the certificate, based on available Department of Labor (DOL) statistics;
 16. average salary for jobs requiring the certificate, based on available DOL statistics;
 17. cohort pass rate, to the extent available, for national certification programs; and
 18. cohort state licensure pass rate, to the extent available, for positions requiring the certificate and licensure.

ANNUAL REVIEW PROGRAM

The bill requires OHE to develop, by January 1, 2018, an annual review program for student data samples from each for-credit and noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate program offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools. It is unclear what sample size should be used. OHE must not disclose any personally identifiable student information that it may obtain from this review.

PROGRAM FACT SHEETS

Under the bill, each higher education institution and private occupational school must develop and make available a one-page fact sheet for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program it offers by July 1, 2017. The fact sheet must contain basic program information to educate potential applicants, including tuition, fees, costs of books and supplies, room and board, graduation, and, to the extent available, job placement rates and average student debt.

BOR WORKING GROUP

The bill also requires BOR, under the direction of its chief academic officer, to establish a working group of CTC continuing education deans, or their designees, to review all noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs that CTCs offer for the purpose of designing a uniform naming convention for such programs. By June 1, 2017, the working group must design a uniform naming convention for the programs to help students distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet varied requirements in the same field of study. The naming convention must uniformly designate varying programs by indicating different, enhanced, or more demanding requirements.

Additionally, the working group must review tuition for the uniformly named sub-baccalaureate certificate programs leading to the same qualifications. By July 1, 2017, and periodically thereafter at BOR's request, the review must determine whether tuition and fee cost variations between the programs are reasonable.

BOR's president must report to the Higher Education Committee by August 1, 2017 on the uniform naming convention and tuition review determination.

BACKGROUND

Higher Education Institution

A higher education institution is a person, school, board, association, limited liability company, or corporation licensed or accredited to offer one or more programs of higher learning leading to one or more degrees (CGS § 10a-34(a)(3)).

Private Occupational School

A private occupational school is a person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other entity offering instruction in any trade or industrial, commercial, service, professional, or other occupation for a remuneration, consideration, reward, or promise. It does not include (1) publicly supervised and controlled instruction, (2) employee or member training offered by a firm or organization, or (3) instruction from a school authorized by the legislature to confer degrees (CGS § 10a-22a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)